



Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

News Release

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New Maryvale Teen Court Open House

WHO: Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5
Presiding Superior Court Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Emmet Ronan
Maryvale Justice of the Peace, Hercules Dellas

WHAT: Maryvale Teen Court Open House

WHEN: **Wednesday, March 29, 2006**

3 – 5 PM Observe Teen Court in session

5 – 5:30PM Remarks and Reception

4:15 – 4:30 Teen jurors return from deliberations to announce the
consequence for defendant.

If you cannot make the entire event, this would be a good time.

WHERE: Maryvale Justice Court, Suite D-10 , 4622 W. Indian School Rd.
(623) 245-0432

Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5, Presiding Superior Court Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Emmet Ronan and Maryvale Justice of the Peace Hercules Dellas invite you to a Maryvale Teen Court Open House Wednesday, March 29th, 3 – 5:30 PM.

Teen Court is an alternative to normal juvenile and criminal justice procedures for addressing appropriate criminal charges brought against teenagers 17 and younger. If a parent and teen offender agree to participate, they receive the benefit of dismissal of the criminal offense(s) charged, following the teen offender's successful completion of the Consequences (i.e. education program, community service hours, letter of apology and other requirements) which are imposed by the Teen Court jury which hears the case.

Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5, says, "Teen Courts have proven to be the most successful of the various diversion programs that have been used in the juvenile justice system. It has been our goal to institute this program in the Southwest Valley."

The record shows that 99 percent of those sentenced in Teen Court complete the required tasks. That keeps their criminal records clean, which helps with college and job applications. Currently 92 percent of juveniles that successfully complete Teen Court are not referred to Juvenile Court within the next year.

Judge Hercules Dellas says, "Taking responsibility for one's mistakes, understanding that there are consequences for acting in violation of the law and gaining experience serving as a juror or as another courtroom participant, are all positive benefits of the Teen Court program."

Our first Teen Court participants are students from a Maryvale High School business law class taught by Mr. Tom Camp, a former judge. Mr. Camp and the Teen Court moderator, Bill Graham, have spent hours with the students preparing them for their courtroom roles as jurors, defense attorneys, prosecutors and bailiffs in Teen Court proceedings.